

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /062 W

-----271030 065705 /22

O 270952Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6384

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL STUTTGART IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NAIROBI 2533

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UG, US

SUBJ: NAIROBI PRESS REPORTS U.S. FORCES ON ALERT

1. NAIROBI SUNDAY "NATION" (ONLY PAPER PUBLISHED ON SUNDAY IN KENYA) CARRIES BANNER HEADLINE "U.S. FORCES ON ALERT" ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTO OF USS ENTERPRISE. STORY DATELINED WASHINGTON AND SOURCE TO AP DOES NOT BEAR OUT HEADLINE CONCERNING ALERT. LEAD PARAGRAPH ASSERTS THAT NUCLEAR-POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS ENTERPRISE CRUISED OFF EAST AFRICA YESTERDAY AS U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS KEPT WATCH ON SITUATION IN UGANDA. PENTAGON OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT NO ORDERS HAD BEEN ISSUED FOR ANY MILITARY MOVES, BUT STORY SAYS "IT WAS BELIEVED THAT STAFF OFFICERS WERE CONSIDERING VARIOUS POSSIBLE OPTIONS IN CASE U.S. CITIZENS IN UGANDA REQUIRE RESCUE."

2. STORY SAYS CARTER ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO BE VERY CAUTIOUS ABOUT MAKING EVEN PURELY PRECAUTIONARY MILITARY MOVES BECAUSE AMIN'S POSSIBLE REACTION IS UNPREDICTABLE. IT MENTIONS SCHAUFLE MEETING WITH UGANDA CHARGE, CITES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT ABOUT 240 AMERICAN MISSIONARIES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS LIVE IN UGANDA. IT SAYS WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO COMMENT WHEN ASKED IF U.S. MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED

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PLANES BEING READIED FOR EVACUATION, BUT THAT SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS SAFE TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENT WOULD TAKE "WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY AND PROPER" TO ASSURE SAFETY OF AMERICANS.

3. REMAINDER OF STORY PROVIDES DETAILED AND SPECULATIVE TREATMENT OF U.S. MILITARY CAPABILITIES IN REGION. IT SAYS ENTERPRISE AND HALF-DOZEN OTHER SHIPS ARE IN INDIAN OCEAN AND PERSIAN GULF.

ENTERPRISE SAID TO HAVE 95 STRIKE PLANES AND OTHER AIRCRAFT ABOARD, BUT NOT ENOUGH HELICOPTERS TO MOUNT AN EVACUATION "OFFICIALS SAID." STORY SAYS ENTERPRISE LEFT MOMBASA TWO DAYS AGO /SIC/ AND THAT NO COMBAT TROOPS ARE ABOARD. NEAREST U.S. MARINE UNIT IS 700-MAN FORCE BASED ON SHIPS IN MEDITERRANEAN; NEAREST U.S. ARMY COMBAT FORCE IS 88-MAN AIRBORNE UNIT IN ITALY. "THIS MEANS ANY U.S. RESCUE OPERATION USING AMERICAN TROOPS WOULD INVOLVE A LONG-RANGE FLIGHT, LONGER THAN THE ISRAELI RAID." STORY SAYS IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT MARINES COULD BE FLOWN FROM PHILLIPINES VIA DIEGO GARCIA.

4. COMMENT: NAIROBI PAPERS ARE NO LONGER SOLD ON NEWSTANDS IN UGANDA, BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT UGANDA GOVERNMENT RECEIVES COPIES FOR OFFICIAL USE.  
MARSHALL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, CASC, UG, US, KE, XO  
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**Review Markings:**  
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